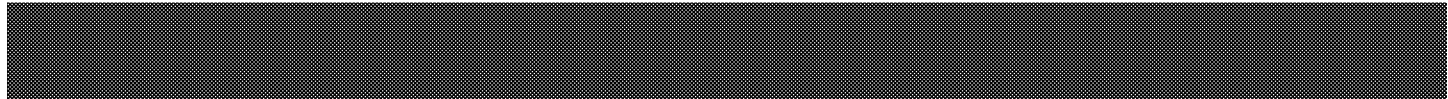


From: Morning Consult [reply@e.morningconsult.com]
Sent: 1/30/2020 1:40:04 PM
To: Walker, Mary [walker.mary@epa.gov]
Subject: Morning Consult Washington: Senate Republicans Project Confidence on Blocking Witnesses in Impeachment Trial

Morning Consult Washington: Senate Republicans Project Confidence on Blocking Witnesses in Impeachment Trial



M WASHINGTON

By [Eli Yokley](#)

Top Stories

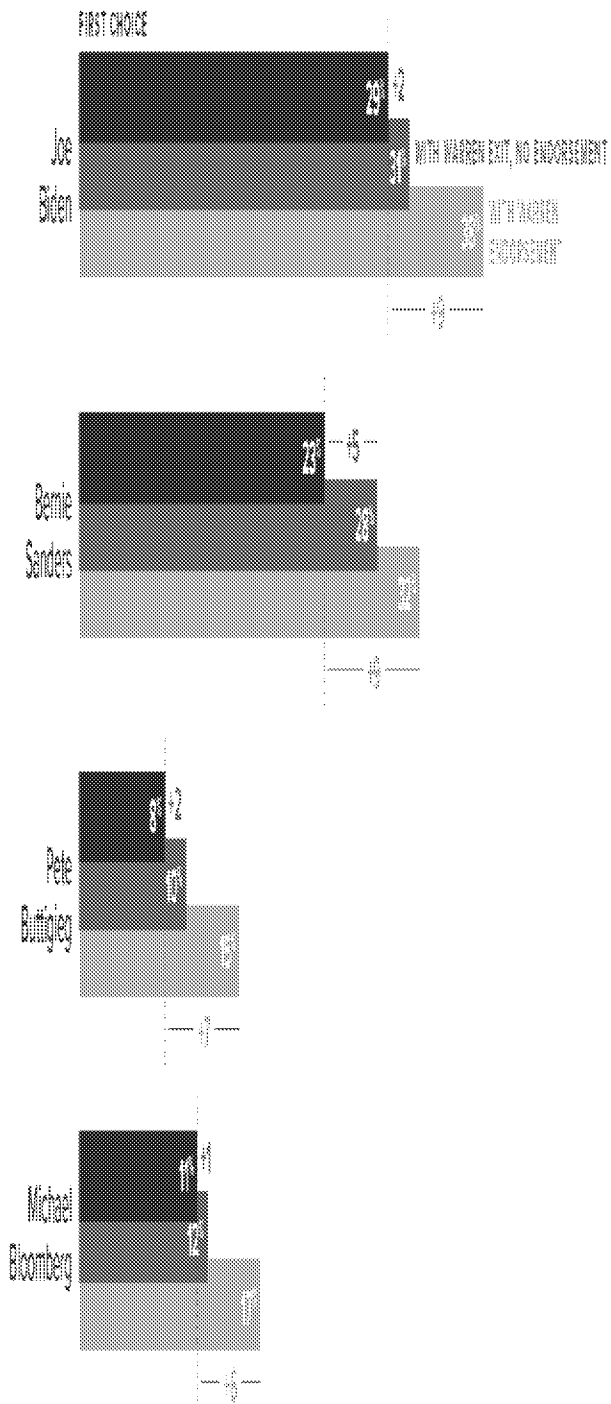
- Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) and other top Republicans signaled they're regaining confidence that they have enough votes to block new witnesses and documents in President Donald Trump's Senate impeachment trial, setting up an acquittal verdict as soon as tomorrow. That posture came after McConnell met yesterday morning with Sen. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, one of the Republicans believed to be considering voting to hear additional testimony. ([The New York Times](#))
- Charles Cooper, a lawyer for former national security adviser John Bolton, pushed back on the National Security Council's determination that Bolton's forthcoming book contains classified information, asking the White House for an expedited review of a chapter about Ukraine, according to a Jan. 24 email. The emails between Bolton's lawyer and the National Security Council suggest a protracted dispute over Bolton's book is likely. ([The Washington Post](#))
- Rep. Doug Collins, who has announced he's challenging appointed Sen. Kelly Loeffler for the Republican nomination for Senate in Georgia, is expected to step down as the ranking member on the House Judiciary Committee, according to GOP lawmakers and aides. The Republican Steering Committee, which leads committee

assignments, is reportedly set to meet next week, and Rep. Jim Jordan of Ohio, the top Republican on the House Oversight and Reform Committee, is expected to make a bid to replace Collins. (Politico)

Chart Review

How Endorsements Could Shape a Narrowing Democratic Presidential Field
Morning Consult

How Elizabeth Warren's exit could effect other top candidates' share of support, with or without an endorsement*



*Candidates are ordered by size of potential endorsement bump.
 Ties are broken by alphabetical order of last name.

Events Calendar (All Times Local)

01/30/2020

Senate impeachment trial	1:00 pm
IMF managing director participates in Center for Global Development event	4:00 pm
Council on Foreign Relations hosts foreign policy forum in New Hampshire	6:00 pm
Trump holds campaign rally in Des Moines, Iowa	7:00 pm

02/03/2020

Iowa caucuses	
Public Affairs Council hosts The Advocacy Conference	

02/04/2020

Public Affairs Council hosts The Advocacy Conference	
Janet Yellen, David Malpass participate in Bipartisan Policy Center event	9:30 am
Rep. McCaul participates in AEI event on China	10:00 am
Trump to deliver State of the Union address	

[View full calendar](#)



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General

[Prosecutors appear to back away from prison recommendation for Michael Flynn](#)

Spencer S. Hsu, The Washington Post

Prosecutors backed away from their recommendation that former national security adviser Michael Flynn serve up to six months in prison, saying in a court filing Wednesday that probation remained a "reasonable sentence" that they would not oppose. The filing comes as Flynn continues his effort to withdraw his guilty plea in special counsel Robert S. Mueller III's Russia probe.

Portion of US border wall in California falls over in high winds and lands on Mexican side

Andy Rose and Paul LeBlanc, CNN

Newly installed panels from the US border wall fell over in high winds Wednesday, landing on trees on the Mexican side of the border. The area is part of an ongoing construction project to improve existing sections of the wall.

21 Hours With Alan Dershowitz

Tom Chiarella, Esquire

He sits with his back half-turned to the window of his eighth-floor apartment in Miami Beach, wearing a striped button-down shirt loosely tucked into khakis, warm socks. Stripes by day, when you're alone in the apartment. Slate-blue solids at night, when you go on television.

The DNC Approved And Kept Private A Generous Exit Package For Tom Perez And Two Top Deputies

Ruby Cramer, BuzzFeed News

A group of Democratic National Committee officials approved and then withheld from their own leadership a proposal to carve out a generous exit package for the party chair, Tom Perez, and two top lieutenants, leaving Democrats confounded over the weekend by the optics and timing of the decision on the eve of the presidential primary. The proposal, put forward as an official DNC resolution during a meeting of the party's budget and finance committee last Friday, would have arranged for Perez and two of his top deputies, CEO Seema Nanda and deputy CEO Sam Cornale, to each receive a lump-sum bonus equaling four months' salary within two weeks of the time they eventually leave their roles.

Hillary Clinton refuses to be served Tulsi Gabbard's defamation lawsuit

Emily Saul, New York Post

Hillary Clinton has now twice snubbed a process server attempting to deliver the defamation lawsuit filed against her by Democratic presidential candidate Tulsi Gabbard, according to Gabbard's attorney. "I

find it rather unbelievable that Hillary Clinton is so intimidated by Tulsi Gabbard that she won't accept service of process," the congresswoman's attorney, Brian Dunne, told The Post.

White House & Administration

Trump Administration Expands Remain in Mexico Program to Include Brazilians

Alejandro Lazo, The Wall Street Journal

Brazilians seeking to cross the U.S.'s Southwest border and request asylum are being sent to wait in Mexico as their immigration cases play out, the Trump administration said Wednesday. Brazilians join the more than 58,000 people from Central America, Venezuela, Cuba and other nations already enrolled in the controversial year-old program known as Remain in Mexico.

Arab Leaders' Support for Mideast Peace Plan Marks a Regional Shift

Dion Nissenbaum, The Wall Street Journal

President Trump's Middle East peace plan has jolted regional dynamics, with Israel preparing to quickly annex West Bank land once expected to be part of a Palestinian state and key Arab leaders tentatively backing the U.S. initiative. For decades, Arab and Muslim leaders have held fast to the view that any deal with Israel should include a withdrawal of Israeli forces from Palestinian land, and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with parts of East Jerusalem as its capital.

'Block grants' no more: Trump's Medicaid overhaul has new name, same goals

Dan Diamond and Rachel Rouben, Politico

The Trump administration will rebrand its Medicaid block grant program and look to safeguard the policy against an expected wave of legal challenges from patient advocates, according to two officials with knowledge of the plan set for release Thursday. The forthcoming block grant program comes with a new name - "Healthy Adult Opportunity" - but retains the original mission long sought by conservatives: allowing states to cap a portion of their spending on Medicaid, a radical change in how the safety net health program is financed.

Trump will propose a budget increase to expand prosecutions of human trafficking

Michael Wilner, McClatchy DC

President Donald Trump will propose a \$42 million budget increase in February to expand support for victims of human trafficking and to boost investigations and prosecutions, two administration officials told McClatchy. The budget increase is part of a push by Ivanka Trump, the president's senior adviser and daughter, to increase attention to the illegal trade ahead of the twentieth anniversary of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, the first law that made human trafficking a federal crime.

Trump administration rolls out new sanctions over Russian occupation of Crimea

Morgan Chalfant, The Hill

The Trump administration on Wednesday announced new sanctions related to Russia's annexation of Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula. The Treasury Department designated eight individuals in Ukraine in response to Russian aggression in the region, seven of whom are acting as government officials in Crimea with Russia's backing and without authorization from Ukraine and who were also designated by the European Union on Tuesday.

Senate

Sen. Collins's Focused Approach Could Help Alter Impeachment Trial

Siobhan Hughes, The Wall Street Journal

From her second-row seat in the Senate chamber, Sen. Susan Collins has filled a 50-page legal pad with notes about the impeachment trial and has started marking up another ahead of a critical stage that will determine whether the proceedings continue-or come to an quick end. "Check this," the Maine Republican wrote in the margins when the Democrats' lead House manager, Rep. Adam Schiff of California, said-accurately-that President Trump had never asserted executive privilege over evidence, but instead directed officials and entire departments not to participate in the House impeachment inquiry.

Lindsey Graham Proposal Could Expose Apple, Facebook to Lawsuits

Ben Brody and Naomi Nix, Bloomberg

Senator Lindsey Graham, a top Trump ally, is targeting giant internet platforms with a child protection measure that could threaten tech companies' use of encryption and a liability exemption they prize. The draft bill from Graham, the South Carolina Republican who chairs the Senate Judiciary Committee, mounts a double attack against encrypted services such as Apple Inc.'s iCloud and Facebook Inc.'s WhatsApp chat.

House

"It Insults Everybody's Intelligence": Nancy Pelosi's Handpicked Impeachment Managers Are Trying To Make GOP Senators Own Trump's Guilt
Abigail Tracy, Vanity Fair

Shortly after 7:30 p.m. on Monday night, Jerrold Nadler was en route back to Washington, D.C., from New York City, where his wife is undergoing treatment for pancreatic cancer, but he'd been following the case Donald Trump's team of impeachment lawyers was presenting on the Senate floor, and he had no patience for the arguments. "It insults everybody's intelligence. Their constitutional arguments are absurd," Congressman Nadler, who serves as the chairman of the House Judiciary Committee and one of the seven Democratic impeachment managers, said.

How Trump's impeachment created two Democratic superstars
Jake Sherman and Heather Caygle, Politico

The House Democratic Caucus has long been dominated by a gaggle of also-rans: men and women who, while good enough for Congress, proved to be underwhelming on the larger stage of national politics. That's changed.

"We Would Still Like Our Money Back": Democrats Want Rep. Jeff Van Drew To Return Their Donations After He Joined The Republican Party
Kadia Goba, BuzzFeed News

Rep. Jeff Van Drew left the Democratic Party days after the House voted to impeach President Donald Trump. Now, some of his former colleagues want their donations back.

House ethics committee warns lawmakers against posting deepfakes

Emily Birnbaum, The Hill

The House Ethics Committee is advising lawmakers against posting manipulated videos and photos on their social media accounts, warning they could face repercussions for tweets and Facebook posts that "mislead the public." The warning shot from the Ethics Committee, which is tasked with monitoring members' conduct in the House, comes amid rising panic over so-called deepfakes, or footage that has been manipulated by artificial intelligence.

2020

Biden, rivals privately pitching caucus night deals

David Siders et al., Politico

Joe Biden and other leading candidates are actively courting lower-polling campaigns in the final days before the Iowa caucuses, hoping to forge election night alliances designed to pick up the supporters of candidates who fail to move past the first ballot. Biden's campaign has approached at least two rival primary campaigns, seeking to broker agreements ahead of the Monday night's caucuses, according to sources familiar with his overtures.

Super PAC Attacks Sanders in an Ad. Sanders Raises \$1.3 Million in a Day.

Sydney Ember, The New York Times

A Democratic super PAC wanted to undermine Senator Bernie Sanders's presidential candidacy just days before the Iowa caucuses. It may have handed him a gift instead.

Bloomberg's Super Bowl ad focuses on the 'national crisis' of gun violence, not Trump

Katie Zezima, The Washington Post

Democratic presidential candidate Mike Bloomberg, who has flooded the airways with ads attacking President Trump, is trying a different approach with a spot during the Super Bowl: His newest ad will focus on a mother whose son was shot and killed. Bloomberg, who founded the gun control group Everytown for Gun Safety, is predominantly relying on ads to propel his presidential candidacy.

As Other Democrats Feud, Bloomberg Hammers Trump on Health Care

Nick Corasaniti and Abby Goodnough, The New York Times

It powered Democrats to recapture the House in the 2018 midterms: the fear that President Trump and Republicans would kill the Affordable Care Act and with it, protections for more than 50 million Americans with pre-existing medical conditions. Yet even as Mr. Trump and other Republicans continue to try to overturn the law in court, Democratic presidential candidates have not made the issue central to their campaigns.

Document shows Bernie Sanders's team preparing dozens of potential executive orders

Jeff Stein and Sean Sullivan, The Washington Post

Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) is considering dozens of executive orders he could unilaterally enact on a wide range of domestic policy issues if elected president, including immigration, the environment and prescription drugs, according to two people familiar with the campaign's planning and an internal document reviewed by The Washington Post. Sanders has risen in national and early-state polling in the final days before Monday's Iowa caucuses, the first contest in the Democratic presidential primary, which has fueled concerns among some party insiders that he could win the nomination.

Trump plans big show of GOP force in Iowa ahead of pivotal impeachment trial day

John Fritze, USA Today

President Donald Trump is preparing a massive show of GOP unity in Iowa ahead of the state's presidential caucus and as a pivotal vote in the Senate impeachment trial exposes rifts among Republicans who will decide his fate. Days before Iowans choose a Democratic candidate in the nation's first presidential caucus, Trump will take the stage at Drake University in Des Moines for his fourth rally of the year.

Conservative group will launch ad broadside against Collins in Georgia

James Arkin, Politico

The conservative Club for Growth plans to air a massive ad campaign attacking Rep. Doug Collins (R-Ga.), adding fuel to the intraparty battle that kicked off after the GOP congressman launched a Senate campaign this week. Collins announced Wednesday he is challenging Sen. Kelly

Loeffler (R-Ga.), who was sworn in this month to replace Sen. Johnny Isakson after he resigned due to health issues.

Late Rep. Elijah Cummings' sisters endorse Mfume, Spikes in race to succeed him

Luke Broadwater, The Baltimore Sun

The three sisters of the late U.S. Rep. Elijah Cummings have made endorsements in the crowded race to succeed him ??? with two sisters supporting his friend, Kweisi Mfume, and one endorsing his longtime aide, Harry Spikes. According to a news release from the Mfume campaign, Cheretheria Blount and Diane Woodson have endorsed the former NAACP president in Tuesday's special primary.

States

South Dakota state lawmaker backtracks after comparing transgender 'procedures' to Nazi 'experiments'

Zack Budryk, The Hill

South Dakota Rep. Fred Deutsch (R), the sponsor of a bill that would outlaw providing puberty blockers or hormones to trans minors, backtracked Tuesday after comparing providing such care to medical experiments performed on children in Nazi concentration camps. "You know, I'm the son of a Holocaust survivor. I've had family members killed in Auschwitz, and I've seen the pictures of the bizarre medical experiments," Deutsch said in an interview with Family Research Council President Tony Perkins, who has himself compared court decisions ruling a Colorado baker broke the law in not baking a cake for a gay couple to the Holocaust.

Advocacy

Trump-connected lobbying firms brought in record revenues in 2019

Brian Johnson, OpenSecrets

Lobbying firms with connections to President Donald Trump and the Trump administration reported strong earnings in 2019, a year that saw a near-record lobbying spending. Despite only jumping into the federal lobbying game in 2017, Ballard Partners leveraged its well-known

connections to the Trump administration to become one of the largest and most influential lobbying firms in Washington.

Opinions, Editorials and Perspectives

Take Two: Can Sanders Broaden His Base?

Rhodes Cook, Sabato's Crystal Ball

Bernie Sanders begins his second bid for the Democratic presidential nomination in possession of something he never attained in 2016: A competitive chance of winning. Sanders' first try four years ago was respectable. Facing a top-heavy favorite in Hillary Rodham Clinton, he won 22 states - 12 caucuses and 10 primaries, among them the battleground states of Michigan and Wisconsin.

Bernie Sanders, and How Indian Food Can Predict Vote Choice

Lynn Vavreck, The New York Times

When was the last time you had vindaloo or tandoori chicken? Chances are if you're a Democrat in Iowa supporting Joe Biden, it has been a while.

Observations on Bernie and Biden in their unnatural habitats

Ryan Lizza, Politico

Bernie Sanders had a cold. The presidential candidate was sitting in the Senate chamber last week listening to Adam Schiff explain why Donald Trump should be removed from office and he retrieved a crumpled tissue from his pocket to wipe his runny nose.

Sanders or Warren? Why Not Both?

D.D. Guttenplan, The Nation

The corporate media have been eagerly predicting an outbreak of hostilities between Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren for months. Last summer, when The New York Times argued that the two candidates were "jockeying for the same cohort of left-leaning voters and donors," both were polling well behind Joe Biden.

Research Reports and Polling

Dem Caucuses Could Be a Five-Way Contest **Monmouth University**

Joe Biden, Bernie Sanders, Pete Buttigieg, and Elizabeth Warren continue to jostle for the top spot in the fifth and final Monmouth University Poll of likely Iowa Democratic caucusgoers. Support for Amy Klobuchar registers in double digits and could have an impact on the leaderboard if she reaches the viability threshold in a number of precincts.



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